



# MOWING - THE DO'S AND DON'TS

A sharp mower blade improves the appearance of a freshly cut lawn; Also reducing leaf blade injury, which can lead to opportunities for fungus infection. **KEEP THAT BLADE SHARP!** If you don't sharpen the blade yourself, consider buying a backup blade, ensuring your regular mowing schedule. This is especially important in spring when you may need to wait a week or two to get it back from the repairman.

## COMPARE DULL (left) VS. SHARP BLADE ON LEAVES BELOW



How many times have you heard “mow as high as possible”? There are many mowers on the market and each manufacturer has different mower settings. In reality, different grasses vary in optimum cutting height. Here are some tips:

Break out the ruler and **MEASURE your cutting height**- It's as simple as that!

Optimum cutting heights: Turf Type Tall Fescues and bluegrass mixes- 3-4 inches

Zoysia- 1 ½ - 2 in. Mow on the higher side starting in August

Try to follow the 1/3 rule- not removing more than 1/3 of the grass blade at each mowing. This can be difficult during rainy weather or if you are out of town for an extended time. In these cases, mow higher than usual, wait a few days, and mow again to the proper height. Be patient and gradually lower your cutting height.

NEVER scalp your lawn before taking your summer vacation. It's one of the quickest ways to destroy a lawn. Pay the neighborhood teenager to mow for you.

Avoid mowing when the grass is wet or right after a heavy rain- this minimizes ruts and matted clippings.

Vary your mowing pattern every 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> mowing to avoid ruts and compaction. This is not always possible around fences, but you can minimize this by not following the same wheel tracks every time.

Unless you use clippings for compost, **DON'T BAG IT!!!** Contrary to popular opinion, grass clippings are about 90% water and the rest is free fertilizer. Clippings do not cause thatch; you save mowing time and keep them out of the landfill.

(Updated 3/16/15 KW)

## Soil Service Garden Center, Inc.

“Kansas City's One-Stop Garden Shop” Since 1934

Phone: 816/ 444-3403

www.SoilService.com

Fax: 816/ 444-4449